

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Crown Copyright documents reproduced by courtesy of The National Archives, London, England.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The National Archives give no warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or fitness for the purpose of the information provided.

Images may be used only for purposes of research, private study or education. Applications for any other use should be made to The National Archives Image Library, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU.

EASTERN

F.O.
371

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 7988

1	2	3	4	5	6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61950

CLOSED
UNTIL

61950

1978

8

E

2

E 7988

PALESTINE

30 AUG 1946

Registry Number } E 7988/7988/31
 TELEGRAM FROM
 No. *Lie. A. Humboldt*
 Dated *Prague*
 Received in Registry } 871
 28 Aug
 30 -

Activities of BENEDIKT
 Refers Prague Et 1417 (E 11942/9632/31) 1946.
 Benedikt has now returned with a new passport,
 & some few certificates in Poland to show she
 does in still eyes and that there is an
 advantage in waiting, which he would like
 to discuss with E.O. subject to approval of
 Political Sect.

Paper.
 E 11942/9632/31, 1946

(Minutes.)
 Copies to: C.O. (Mr. Mathison)
 N.I.S. (Mr. Selan)

References.
 E 8429/7988/31

I suggest that we should consult
 the C.O. before replying to this and
 submit draft accordingly.
 Please see E 10369/9632/31

(Print.)
 61950

J. Cable
 (J.E. CABLE)

(How disposed of.)
 Mr. Higham. C.O.
 from Mr. Selan
 (enc)
 Mr. Selan
 N.I.S.
 (enc)
 Sept. 5.

Bu. Sept. 15th

JB Sept. 9 8/4

(Action completed.)
[Signature]
 (Index)
[Signature]
 12/1/48

Next Paper:

8429

32008 F.O.P.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: - **FO** 371 / 61950

1	2	3	4	5	6

E 7988
30 AUG 1947

3

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1. *Allen*

FROM PRAGUE TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir A. Rumbold D: 5.57 p.m. 28th August, 1947.
No. 871
28th August, 1947. R: 7.05 p.m. 28th August, 1947.

G G G G

My telegram No. 1417 of December 5th 1946.
Confidential.
Following for C.W. Baxter.
Benedikt.

Benedikt has now returned with a new scheme, to issue a few certificates in Poland to show the door is still open and that there is an advantage in waiting, which he would like to discuss with you subject to approval of the Palestine Government. We have been non committal but agreed to ask whether you would like to see him in which case he would come over to the United Kingdom. He is calling again for an answer in about three weeks.

[Copy sent to Mr. Baxter].

AUG 30 1947

1					
2					
1					
3					
4					
5					
2					
6					

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-
FO 371 / 61956

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. E 7988/7988/31
J.R.C.

Draft. Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

To S.D. Higham
Mr. Matheson
C.O.

from
Mr. Beith

Copy to:
M.I. 5
(Mr. Selwin)

49

OUT FILE +1c a.m. left

IMMEDIATE

Dear John,

I enclose a copy of
Prague telegram no. 871, reporting
a proposal by BENEDIKT of
the Orthodox Relief and Rescue
Committee in Palestine, that a
few immigration certificates
should be issued to Jews
in Poland.

2. As you will see,
BENEDIKT proposes to come
to the U.K. to discuss this
idea, provided that we are
willing to consider it.

~~Before replying to Prague's
telegram, we should be
you grateful~~

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
Reference:-
FO
371 / 61950

~~grateful for your comments.~~
 You will remember that the High Commissioner for Palestine, in his telegram no. 1651 of 7th October 1946, expressed a fairly favourable opinion of Benedikt. This was fairly qualified by M.I.5's suspicions of his associate HURWITZ, ~~Stewart's~~ ~~letter~~ ~~which~~ who was believed to be connected with the illegal immigration organization.

3. ~~Before replying to Ragne's telegram, we~~ should be grateful for your urgent comments and for those of Schurr, to whom I am sending a copy of this letter, in order to enable me to draft a reply to Ragne.

yours sincerely
 John Birch JB Sept. 9

5
 NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
 Reference:-

FO

371 / 61956

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. 6

9th September, 1947.

NOT FILE

(E 7988/7988/31)

Restricted

Immediate

Dear John,

I enclose a copy of Prague telegram No. 871, reporting a proposal by Benedikt of the Orthodox Relief and Rescue Committee in Palestine, that a few immigration certificates should be issued to Jews in Poland.

2. As you will see, Benedikt proposes to come to the United Kingdom to discuss this idea, provided that we are willing to consider it. You will remember that the High Commissioner for Palestine, in his telegram No. 1051 of 9th October 1946, expressed a fairly favourable opinion of Benedikt. This was partly qualified by M.I.5's suspicions of his associate Hurwitz, who was believed to be connected with the illegal immigration organization.

3. I should be grateful for your urgent comments and for those of Scherr, to whom I am sending a copy of this letter, in order to enable me to draft a reply to Prague.

Yours sincerely,
(Squad) John Beith

(J.G.S. Beith)

J.D. Higham Esq.,
Colonial Office.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61950

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1947

E

E 8429

PALESTINE

SEP

Registry Number E 8429/1988/31

FROM P. A. Fitzgerald.

No. Colonial office

Dated 75113/47.

Received in Registry 10, Sept 11

Continues of BENEDIKT.

Refer to letter (E 7988/1988/31) suggests M. Benedikt be informed that his proposal that a certain proportion of immigration certificates in Palestine should be allotted to Poland, is not practicable.

Last Paper

7988.

(Minutes.)

I submit draft telegram in reply to Prague by 871 (E 7988) J.E. Cable 15/9 J.D. Sept. 15

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Tel. Prague 1034 15 Sept of Fitzgerald to O. Sept 18

(Action completed)

J.E.M. 18/9

(Index)

[Signature] 14/9/47

Next Paper

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61950

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



My Reference... 75113/47.

Your Reference.....

E 8429

Colonial Office,
Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

10th September, 1947.

Dear Beith.

Would you please refer to your letter (E 7988/7988/31) of the 9th September concerning the proposal of Benedikt that a certain portion of immigration certificates into Palestine should be allotted to Poland.

You will perhaps already have seen the High Commissioner's telegram No. 1690, in which he gives his views on the assignment of a certain number of certificates to France. I understand that apart from the Cyprus and German quotas, the certificates are allocated on the principle of priority application, and we feel that the High Commissioner would be very reluctant to abandon this principle in favour of distribution on a territorial basis.

I suggest therefore that Mr. Benedikt is informed that it is not practicable to agree to his proposal, and it might perhaps be pointed out to him that Jews in Poland do already benefit from the allocation of certificates by the Government of Palestine to the close relatives in Europe of Palestinian citizens.

Yours sincerely
E.N. Fitzgerald.
(E.N. Fitzgerald)

J.G.S. BEITH, ESQ.,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

F 75113/47

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61950

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry No. E.8429/7988/31

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

J.E.C.

NOT FILE

F.O.,

Despatched 10 194 M.

Draft.

PRAGUE

Telegram.

No. 1034

(Date) Sept 15th

Repeat to :-

En Clair.

Code.

Cypher.

Distribution :-

Departmental no. 1

Copies to :-

Mr. Fitzgerald
C.O.

9

Your telegram NO. 871 [of 28th August] Jewish legal immigration.]

certificates to enter Palestine, apart from quotas for Cyprus and Germany, are allotted ~~interoperational~~ on a ~~territorial~~ priority basis for ~~compassionate persons~~ and Palestine Jew. would be reluctant to ~~alter~~ ~~the~~ substitute the principle of territorial distribution. Jews in Poland already benefit by the allocation of certificates to close relatives in Europe of Palestinian citizens.

/2.

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:- **FO**

371 / 61950

to have ^{2,} We do not wish
~~advantage to be gained from~~
discussions with BENE~~D~~IKT on this subject.
You may explain ~~our~~ objections to his proposal
as indicated above.

10, Sept. 15

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
Reference:-

FO

371 / 61956

11
End

E. 8429/7988/31.
Confidential.
Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PRAGUE.

No. 1034.

15th September 1947. D. 10.55 a.m. 16th September 1947.

0:0:0:0

Your telegram No. 871 [of 23th August:
Jewish legal immigration].

Certificates to enter Palestine, apart from quotas for Cyprus and Germany, are allotted on a priority basis for compassionate reasons and Palestine Government would be reluctant to substitute the principle of territorial distribution. Jews in Poland already benefit by the allocation of certificates to close relatives in Europe of Palestinian citizens.

2. We do not wish to have discussions with Benedikt on this subject. You may explain objections to his proposal as indicated above.

1
2
1
3
4
5
2
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-
FO
371 / 61950